

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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There are many ways to exist. Indeed it is this diversity that contributes to a healthy society and culture. In the same way that the animals in the jungle are not all expected to do the same roles (predator, prey, herd, solitary etc) neither can children be expected to perform the same tasks at the same times as everyone in their age group. Different animals are good at different things, they were uniquely made that way, and it is the same with children. The current Australian education system and curriculum works for some students (and some teachers) but for many it adds stress, anxiety and creates disconnection from one's own autonomy, intuition and truth. Being told what to do and when for the majority of one's waking life (during school years), and then being expected to know what one wants to do with their life, to finally have makes no sense. Instead children can be encouraged to follow their own passions, their own interests and develop skills and capabilities at their own pace. The current Australian curriculum is not the gold standard in education. In fact, many children (and adults) now experience depression, anxiety and other mental health concerns which can be linked to the excessive pressure and manipulation of modern school systems. Children are moved on too quickly from one task to another, whereas with homeschooling they have plenty of time and space to explore their learning in meaningful ways. Research shows us that when learning is meaningful and autonomous, including play, then higher retention, deeper understanding and more complex connections are formed. Homeschool children can engage in this way, scaffolding many learning outcomes in one project or interest area, rather than carving up learning into separate subjects and areas. Expecting homeschool families and parents to follow a school curriculum that they have chosen to excuse themselves from is ridiculous. They are not ACARA trained teachers, nor do they want to be. They choose freedom and opportunities to teach their children within the home and community, to expose them to life in age appropriate ways, rather than the cess pools of bullying, pornography, screen addiction and apathy that many school yards have become today. Our three children aged 8-13 had many negative outcomes in the school system. They developed anxiety (nail biting) were labeled ADHD, had meltdowns most afternoons and were also bullied for the colour of their skin. Since homeschooling they are well adjusted, have long, strong, healthy nails and are learning through real life. This world needs all different kinds of people, something that homeschooling fosters and encourages. We are shifting from external expectations to internal alignment, and our children are thriving. Do not dictate to us how to exist.